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There are those who compile rating systems,  
those who deplore rating systems,  
and those who try to "win" at rating systems.  
This publication "moons" at the last-named bunch.

LAPUTA is an occasional publication for the Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission, a voluntary association of curators of Postal Diplomacy rating systems. It is automatically sent to members of the Commission. Interested parties may subscribe @15¢ per issue. A copy will also be deposited with the Postal Diplomacy Archives in Lebanon IN. This issue is Pandemonium Publication #555, edited and published by Rod Walker, 4069 Jackdaw St., San Diego CA 92103.

I. This issue is devoted to the ROGUES' GALLERY criteria. I mentioned in #2 that I had Key's and Beyerlein's "votes". I also have mine, of course, and Walt Buchanan's, dated 22 Sep 74.

II. I'm still not sure what Len is looking for, but here is the info. Please refer to your list he sent you and also to DW #2. I will use the numbers of his revised list, but cross-reference it to the published one of March this year. "Votes" and comments were as follows:

1. Same as #1 in DW #2. Beyerlein: agree ("in ODD either everyone gets rated or the game is not rated at all; thus when I am agreeing to something it is in terms of the game, not necessarily the player"). Key: agree. Buchanan: agree ("prospectively"). Walker: disagree ("if a player plays twice in the same game, he has played in 2 games, not 0 games; I see no rationale for excluding him or the game").

2. Similar to #2. Beyerlein: agree. Key: agree ("if 1 player objects to the conclusion of a 'declared' ending, I consider the game irregular"). Buchanan: agree. Walker: disagree ("I see no reason for exclusion; rate as a draw, maybe...").

3. Similar to #3. Beyerlein: agree ("however, there are no country listings in ODD"). Key: disagree ("if the players agree to a concession due to the diplomatic conditions, the number of centers the winner[s] has does not matter"). Buchanan: "?". Walker: "I guess this is OK, but awfully complicated."

4. Similar to #4. Beyerlein: agree ("if the part about 'his country may not have more centers than any country in the draw' is removed"). Key: agree. Buchanan: agree. [Oh--Key had same limitation as Beyerlein.] Walker: agree (but I would disagree if the phrase Beyerlein and Key object to were omitted).

5. Similar to #5. Beyerlein: "questionable whether or not it is worth trying to cover this GM's action." Key: disagree ("I for one do not know how we can keep up with this sort of monitoring every game..."). Buchanan: agree ("gross GM error?"). Walker: "I see no real purpose in this, but have no big objection."

6. Same as #6, but under all circumstances. Beyerlein: agree. Key: disagree. ("I like the wording of item 6 in DW/2 much better...or LG criterion #9 [unless there have been, in my opinion, sufficient precautions and justifications, the GM(s) must not have also played a position in the game] even though it is subjective in nature.") Buchanan: agree. Walker: agree ("yes!").

7. Novice games gotta have novice s/b players--more general than #7. Beyerlein: agree ("however, novice has to be defined"). Key: agree

("however the definition of 'novice' must be consistant for the duration of the game with regard to substitutions"). Buchanan: agree. Walker: agree ("but I would guess you use this to exclude 1970E. That was not a 'novice game' in the usual sense. It is said there was hanky-panky like mad in that one, and it was a set-up win for Beshara. But we can't prove it [can we?]").

8. Same as #8. Beverlein: agree. Key: agree. Buchanan: agree. Walker: agree.

9. Same as #9, but now automatic. Beverlein: "questionable". Key: "questionable---if a GM sets deadlines so short that they are unmeetable and cause players to miss there might be a case under item 8". Buchanan: disagree. Walker: "What's 'erratic'? The short deadline would not apply to 'local' games if otherwise rateable."

10. Same as #10, except "any portion". Beverlein: agree. Key: agree. Buchanan: agree. Walker: agree. Mirabile dictu.

11. Same as #11, except "major device". Beverlein: "gaining moves by the GM or results by the players?" Key: "Questionable--some of the 2-week deadline 'demonstration' games have relied heavily upon the telephone as an instrument for obtaining moves [collect calls by the GM and calls in by the players]". Buchanan: Agree. Walker: "I see no reason whatever for this."

12. Same as #12. Beverlein: "define 'same locale'." Key: "Questionable." Buchanan: agree. Walker: "I see no reason whatever for this."

13. Same as #13. All agreed. (Key: "However, I rate 6- and 5-player games [or will].")

14. Same as #14. All agreed but Walker ("Why? Rate as a draw, why not?")

15. Same as #15. Beverlein: "Questionable." Key: "Very questionable, possibly pointless." Buchanan: Agree ("But where do we draw the line?") Walker: "I see no purpose in this, but have no big objection."

16. Similar to #16, but GOs OK. Beyerlein...well, all agreed. (Walker: "The policy is reprehensible, yes; but does it disqualify the whole game? Maybe if it is done several times...".)

17. Same as #17. All agreed but Walker ("I'm in 1973EG, a 'prophetic' game. I knew it was when I took over as a replacement. If I now 'protest' a prophetic season, does that disqualify the game? If it does, then this criterion is unfair and discriminatory [much as I hate prophetics].")

18. Same as #18, but ends on word "cause". All agreed.

19. Same as #19. Beverlein: agree ("for the case of 7-man 7-game tournaments"). Key: agree ("in regard to 7-man 7-game tourneys, but whose opinion are you going to accept as to whether or not there actually was a cross-game alliance, the guy who got dumped on...? Agree in principle but questionable in reality.") Buchanan: disagree ("evidentary problems"). Walker: agree (with respect to 7-man 7-game tournaments).

20. New. Running out of space...Beyerlein disagrees unless GM error is gross & proven, then apply #8. Key, same comment. Buchanan agrees if GM error gross. Walker agrees if protest is legit.